

Connect Global: Week Four Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

During the 4th week of the Connect Program, participants started the session with an icebreaker. Most groups then moved on to discuss the second set of required readings on Intercultural Communication. Most facilitators encouraged their groups to reflect on a deeper level and explore cultural differences from different angles.

Participants carried on with free-flowing discussions in which they engaged around a number of topics, including immigration and integration, values and social norms.

Groups also made time to discuss the Final Project and students had the opportunity to share their thoughts on the interviews they've conducted so far. Then, they broke out into smaller groups and decided on the second interview question, which they will use for their final set of interviews they will prepare during week 5 of the Program.

The majority of facilitators have reported that the group dynamics this week have been "Good" or "Excellent", and that students are becoming more open in their discussions. At this point, a large number of facilitators reported how their groups are making progress. Participants seemed to take more ownership over the dialogue process and demonstrated great interest in each other's differences.

Attendance & Technology:

This week the number of students absent from their sessions was high, with a number of students also coming late to their sessions or leaving early. We understand that some students are busy preparing and taking mid-term exams, but we would highly appreciate your support in **reminding your students that their attendance and participation remain crucial to the group's dynamic and to making the most out of their virtual exchange experience.**

On the technological front, things are moving smoothly, with the exception of some students who faced technical issues. Our technical team was able to assist students and facilitators before and during the session effectively.

Next Week:

Next week, participants will focus on their personal stories through the Life Stories activity, in which they discuss the 3 key influences or moments that have shaped their perspective, and engage each other on a more personal level. The objective is to help group members recognize how different personal experiences can lead to different worldviews.

Outside of the sessions, students conduct the second set of 90-second video interviews with the two community members they selected. Students will then upload their interviews to Youtube by Thursday of week 5.